



TASK FORCE WEB

Case Study: Feedback Application

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***LT Rajeev V. Parekh
TFW Norfolk
Technical Team***



Objectives

- Background
- Constraints
- Implementation
 - Software Constraints
 - Incorporate Portal Look and Feel
 - Retrieve User ID
- Next Step
 - XSL/XML



Background

- Late January
 - Pilot portal on USS George Washington installed and running
 - During the pilot a need for a electronic method of recording feedback became evident.
- During pilot program
 - No applications were built to take full advantage of the portal's features.
- Not an experienced programmer



Constraints

- Constraints for the feedback service:
 - Must run under every instance of the portal.
 - All shore based installations
 - All ships
 - No additional equipment required (i.e. servers, or special software)
 - Incorporate the user selected color/font scheme
 - Exploit the Common Identity provided by the portal
 - If possible, use existing technologies to the maximum extent possible. (XML/XSL and SOAP)



Implementation

- To meet the first two software constraints:
 - IIS 5.0 readily available on all portal instances.
 - Designed in ASP 3.0.
 - ActiveX Data Objects and Object Linking and Embedding DB
 - Access 2000 database file to store the information.
 - Used ASP include files to minimized rewriting of code



Implementation

- Incorporate the user selected color/font scheme
 - Portal gives access to the cascading style sheets via the PRI field of **<ClientStyle>**
 - **<templateBase>** contains the URL
 - **<style>** contains the filename
 - context attribute contains type of browser
 - “**browser**” = all browsers
 - “**IE**” = Internet Explorer



Implementation

- Extract CSS PRI information
 - Used MSXML 3.0 DOM and ASP 3.0
 - Initialized DOM and load the PRI header variable into the DOM
 - Insert the combined path into the HTML stream as a <link> element
 - Add the client-side JavaScript for browser detection with the appropriate style sheet



Defined Classes

- These are CSS selectors that provide additional font and color variations. A complete list is in the [developer's guide](#)

Element/Class	Description	How to reference
<u>contentheader</u>	Header	<code>class="contentheader"</code>
<u>currentdirectory</u>	Current Directory	<code>class="currentdirectory"</code>
<u>explorerbg</u>	Background Color	<code>class="explorerbg"</code>
<u>explorertabindicator</u>	Explorer Tab Indicator	<code>class="explorertabindicator"</code>
<u>explorertablebg</u>		<code>class="explorertablebg"</code>

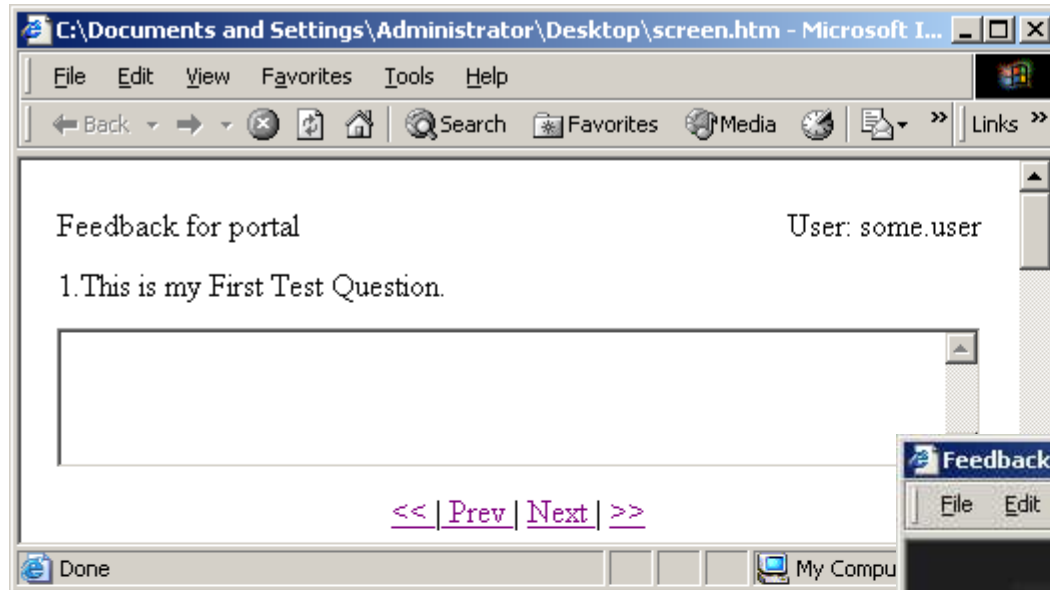


Implementation

- Exploit the Common Identity provided by the portal
 - Only used for identification of response not for authentication nor authorization
 - Used MSXML 3.0 DOM and ASP 3.0
 - Initialize DOM and load the PRI header variable into the DOM
 - Retrieve the text of <UserID> into a variable for later use in script

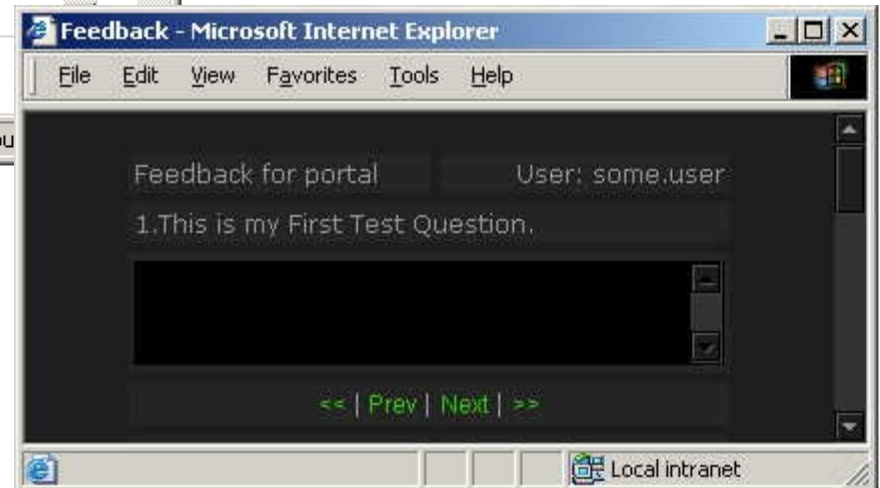


Example: Screen Shots



Before

After





Next Step

- Use of existing technologies
 - XML messages
 - Messages between modules are sent in an XML format in preparation for using SOAP, if necessary
 - Use XSL to transform some XML for presentation



Conclusion

- Retrieved and used the Portal CSS from the PRI header
 - Used XML DOM
 - Directly inserted it into HTML stream
- Retrieved Common Identity from PRI header also
 - Used XML DOM
 - Stored in variable for later use
- Used XSLT to transform XML messages for presentation in browser